



St. Gerard

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday
of Advent

Roman Catholic Parish

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
(Cancelled until further notice)

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead.
We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy.
You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisyorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Tues. (15th) 6pm *Holy Hour Devotion*
 7pm +Robert McLean
Wed.(16th) 9:30am Jody Chupa
Thurs.(17th) 9:30am Peter Landygo & family
Fri. (18th) 9:30am +Mathew Abraham
Sat. (19th) 9:30am Children of Stella Fulawka

PHONE 306.782.2449

BY 4PM THURSDAY TO REGISTER

5:00 pm

7:00 pm

Sun. (20th) **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00 am

11:00 am

5:00 pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- Maximum 30 people may attend weekday Mass.
- ~~There will be no "in-person" Mass Sat. 5pm or Sunday 9am & 11am until further notice.~~
- ~~Sunday Mass is live on Facebook at 10:00 am~~ (Search "Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton")
- Masks are mandatory.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- At least two-metres separation is required between households.
- Please arrive early so that you can provide your name and telephone number for contact-tracing purposes.
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
 - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days

Come to Mass during the week!

Father Louis celebrates Mass during the week for 30 people.



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the source of my strength, peace, and joy. Send your Spirit to renew my trust and hope in you and give me peace.

- From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. It is also called 'Rejoice Sunday'. It's not Christmas yet, but it is the day we celebrate the joyous recognition that the Messiah is already here and will be appearing soon.

In the first reading, Isaiah reminds us that the Messiah, The Anointed of the Lord, is coming to bring good things and is a reason for rejoicing. Indeed, He brings a happy resolution to a real litany of afflictions: good news to the poor, healing to the ill, the sad, and the grieving, freedom to the imprisoned and enslaved, and vindication - being cleared from blame for past faults. It is a blessed time.

Isaiah doesn't describe what the Anointed One will bring, but we can use Mary's words in the Magnificat to know what He brings to us such as: "... *He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever*". (Luke 1.46-55)

In the second reading St. Paul reminds us that joy should not just be our attitude when things are going great, but when things are going bad as well, because those things will be changed when the Lord comes.

St. Paul invites us to be moved by the Spirit. But this is more than an emotional effort. He teaches us to test everything to see what is truly good and what is truly evil. The good makes us profoundly happy; evil just makes us miserable if we allow it to act in us.

And in the Gospel John the Baptist says that the Messiah is "already" among them. The Messiah is not "coming", He is already here! He is already among us, but hidden, waiting to be revealed.

We are called to share the joy, and if we are not doing that with our own family, that is where we must start. I invite and encourage you to think about this: there are people hurting, hungry, or lonely during this pandemic time. If we bring them joy, we bring them the good news that someone loves them and cares for them always.

In the Gospel of John our Lord says, "*In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*" (John 16.33). He doesn't say we would be free of difficulties, but that he will help us to overcome them.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, we have only ten more days to prepare ourselves for Christmas. Let's commit ourselves to doing two things this week:

- Firstly, let's take enough time for personal prayer so that we stir up our own Christian joy. The devil wants to keep us so busy that we can't do that; so let's overcome him.
- And secondly, reach out to someone and do something for those who need to discover the only source of lasting joy: Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Help them to build a deep and a personal friendship with Him.

Again, I wish all of you a blessed week and abundant blessings. I hope that we can gather together soon to celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas. We pray for each other.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

Sunday Mass on Facebook (Live)

Every Sunday at 10:00 am
until further notice

Celebrated by Father Louis Kim Nguyen

- Search "Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton" on Facebook
- Ask to be added as a member
- Encourage everyone you know to participate

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I can not now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You. Amen.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at 9:00 am
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

What if conditions do not allow me to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church?

Pope Francis addressed this issue in his homily on March 20, 2020¹:

"Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church)² says. It is very clear:

If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart." Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now." And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God."

¹<https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2020/if-you-cant-go-to-confession-take-your-sorrow-directly-to-god-pope-says.cfm>

²https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P4C.HTM#1441,1442



News from the CWL



Memberships for 2021 It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L., 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website (www.cwl.ca) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.

The C.W.L. made the draw for their Raffle on Saturday, December 5th. The following were winners: 1st Prize - \$200 - Brittney Maddaford; 2nd Prize - Double Quilt & 2 Shams - Justin Flunder; 3rd Prize - Twin Quilt & Sham - Sheila Johnson. Thank you to all who sold tickets, bought tickets, and helped in any way to make this raffle possible. The amount of the proceeds to Palliative Care has not been finalized.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 21 Articles for "The Word" due

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL
St. Gerard Parish Goal: \$43,905.83
Donations received to date: \$28,815.00 (65.6%)

ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm: Resurrection Parish
12:00 Midnight: Holy Rosary Cathedral

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 am: Resurrection Parish

NEW YEAR'S DAY

11:00 am: Holy Rosary Cathedral

Daily Mass

9:00 AM: Dec. 21 – Jan. 4

Will be livestreamed from the following parishes:
St. Augustine, Wilcox; Our Lady of Peace and Resurrection Parishes, Regina

Visit: www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina or
www.archregina.sk.ca/live



Bringing Home the Word **+**

John's Joyful Preaching
By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Why go into the desert and cry out? The voice in the desert is lonesome, heard only by those who go there to listen. Let's leave our routines, go into the spiritual deserts of our hearts, and listen today.

The words of preparation John preaches are joyful. Why? First, to be told you are on the wrong path is good news. Have you ever followed your GPS to the wrong place because of an address typo? "It would have been nice to know this before I traveled across town to the wrong place," you thought.

Second, it is joyful to be told what makes your beloved happy, because you then know what will please him or her. Good news! John's preaching points us to our destination in Jesus and to what makes him happy. The rose vestments worn by our priests today symbolize that joy. Notice in Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel fresco titled *Prophet Isaiah*, the prophet is wearing that color, too.

Another interesting detail is that Isaiah is holding his finger in the book while looking back at a young cherub, who in turn points to his neighbor. Isaiah's finger is in the Gospels, where he is the most quoted prophet of the Old Testament. Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah, and John the Baptist quotes Isaiah's prophesy about "the voice crying out in the desert."

Perhaps the cherub behind Isaiah is John the Baptist. And perhaps the barely visible baby to whom the little John the Baptist is pointing represents Christ, the reason for our joy.

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The deadline for the December 27th bulletin is 12 noon Tuesday, December 22nd. The deadline for the January 3rd bulletin is 12 noon Tuesday, December 29th. Thank you.

The **2021 Sunday offering envelopes** are available for pickup in the Welcome Area. Special collection envelopes for Pre-Authorized Giving have been mailed.

2020-2021 Sunday Missals - ONLY 110 LEFT!
The suggested free-will offering is \$5.00

2020 GIVING TREE CAMPAIGN

All items are to be returned to the base of the Giving Tree **at weekday Mass**, with the **deadline 11am Sunday, December 20th** so the gifts can be delivered in time for Christmas.



Thank you in advance for your generosity and for bringing joy and the spirit of giving to those who are less fortunate.

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

The deadline for 2020 donations is Wednesday, December 30th at 4:00 pm

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

After downloading the [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Interac e-Transfer

- 1 Log into your online banking account.
- 2 Find **e-Transfer** and add giving@stgerard.ca to your recipient list.
- 3 Enter the desired amount.
- 4 A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to giving@stgerard.ca with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the follow-up email. Thanks!

Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash), enclosed in your offertory envelope to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Please mail your donation by December 20th to ensure that it is received by 4:00 pm Wednesday, December 30th. Thank you!

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Family Prayer Corner

John was a witness to the light, but not the light. Christ was the light John proclaimed. Jesus is the light of the world.

Candles add a glow to the long evenings of the season. Why not create a Christmas prayer corner with candles, a picture of Jesus (or the Holy Family), and flowers. Dedicate the prayer corner by lighting the candles in a darkened room and sharing John 1:6-8, 19-28 with your family. Take a few moments to discuss the power of light and how light dispels the darkness. Tell your family Jesus, like light, dispels the darkness of sin and death.

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S	E	Y	H	A	J	I	L	E	A	JOHN	WITNESS	LIGHT
E	L	W	N	O	H	I	L	S	T	LEVITES	ELIJAH	PROPHET
S	E	N	H	A	G	R	E	I	S	ISAIAH	PHARISEES	BAPTISE
S	V	N	A	H	H	E	W	T	S	WATER	BETHANY	JORDAN
T	I	O	T	R	S	T	O	P	E			
S	T	J	C	I	E	A	E	A	N			
E	E	T	R	E	S	W	E	B	T			
I	S	A	I	A	H	A	S	E	I			
R	H	T	J	O	R	D	A	N	W			
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	I	H	A			

CATECHISM THEME: JOHN, PRECURSOR, PROPHET, AND BAPTIST. (CCC 717-720)

John the Baptist stood alone against the hypocrisy of his time and all time. He told the truth, because he witnessed to God's Truth, the Christ.

John was the Elijah figure, filled with the fire of the Spirit. His ministry fulfilled the cycle of prophets, for John prepared his audience for coming of the Messiah. No Spirit-filled prophets were necessary in the time of the Messiah, because he would offer the Spirit to everyone.

John's message and ministry of a repentant baptism prefigured Christ's. John baptized in the spirit of hope. The baptism of Jesus realized that hope. Those baptized by John looked forward to a life with God. Those baptized by the Christ lived in God.

We are now half way through Advent. The closer Christmas comes, the stronger the pull to God and the crazier the season becomes. Anticipation became proclamation which is now witness. It's time to take stock. How strong was your witness this week? Was it personal? Was it honest?

Through his ministry, John the Baptist opened the way for Jesus of Nazareth. As Christians, we, too, prepare the way of the Lord for others. Our words, our example, our character need to be transparent, like John's. While the world may not understand us, it will never be able to charge us with duplicity or diversion. Our witness will be true and from the heart. And everyone will know who we follow, who we expect to soon arrive.

How can you be a little more honest (and authentic) this week? Reflect on your words, your actions, and your character. Pray and plan for this coming week.

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Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.

What does this mean? As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the YouTube Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish & Christ the King Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

Why do I need to wear a mask? All those who attend both daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses are required to wear a mask. The parish has a small supply of masks for those who do not have one. Please remember to put your mask on before exiting your vehicle prior to entering the church. A mask protects you and others!

Why do I need to register each time that I arrive to attend Mass? In the event that someone who has attend Mass develops COVID-19, it is necessary for the parish to have the names and phone numbers of all in attendance for contact-tracing purposes.

Have questions? Please email the Parish Office: office@stgerard.ca

YOUTH REFLECTION

"A Year of Favour"

This Week...

In Isaiah's time, every seventh year was a year of favour during which all debts were cancelled and captives were released. The year of favour reflected the mercy and forgiveness of God. The time of the coming of Jesus as the Messiah is also a year of favour, likewise bringing God's mercy and forgiveness. The First Letter to the Thessalonians tells us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks constantly - a fitting response to the goodness of God, and to God's mercy and forgiveness in the coming of Jesus.

For Your Reflection

You have probably heard of political prisoners being captured and released. In your local newspapers, you have probably seen pictures of men and women getting married. You have probably seen gardens all over your town. This sounds like the year of favour that Isaiah was talking about.

- Do you think it is? Why or why not?
- Are there plenty of things to be thankful for and to rejoice about? Name some.

When Jesus came, he fulfilled these Scriptures of Isaiah. Jesus comes for us again and again every year at Christmas time. During Advent we do our best to prepare for Jesus in our hearts - to get ourselves ready to help Jesus make this year a year of favour.

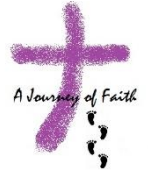
- How can you help make this a year of favour in your school? in your neighbourhood? in your family?



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus Christ, we invite you to join us in the RCIA journey. It is a warm, welcoming experience that introduces the Christian faith in our Roman Catholic tradition. We explore topics such as Holy Scripture, the Sacraments, Church history and the core beliefs of the Church. Anyone who has taken this "leap of faith" has found it to be a life-altering experience.

The RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized. There are several rites and stages that are part of the process to prepare adults for Baptism and to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, the Catholic Church respects that baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth in Christ and our immersion into His saving death and Resurrection. It can never be repeated. Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church happens after a period of preparation through catechesis, prayer and worship, and an introduction to Catholic life, values, and mission.



Adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation can prepare for reception of this sacrament through a period of catechesis and prayer.

If you are interested in this journey of faith, please contact Fr. Louis at 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323.

And to all our friends in St. Gerard's parish, we remind you that we all have a responsibility to share our faith and bring others to Christ. If you know of a family member, friend, co-worker or fellow student who is searching for a deeper meaning in their life, let them know about RCIA.

LOST SOMETHING?



Mitts, toques, etc. – check the literature display drawer marked "Lost and Found" in the Welcome Area.

Books, religious articles, jewellery, etc. – contact the Parish Office.

OFFERING A MASS

The offering of a Mass in the name of a deceased family member or friend is one of the greatest ways to keep our beloved dead in our living memory. At each celebration of the Mass, the great prayer of sacrifice is made complete as Jesus' life, death and resurrection is offered to God the Father. When we offer a Mass for a particular person, we ask that in a special way the individual be remembered by the priest who offers up the great sacrifice on behalf of the whole community of faith. In a very real and active way, the life, death and resurrection of the person remembered becomes present and is offered up with Jesus. Each time we offer up a Mass for someone, living or dead, we celebrate the greatest gift of our faith – the gift of Everlasting Life in Christ.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available daily at the EADM Centre Chapel at 484 Hamilton St. Regina. Hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Monday through Thursday. Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please help us keep Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available in Regina on a daily basis.

The Healing and Growth Centre St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission – Searching for God's purpose in your life? Want to live life more fully, and take your faith to the next level? Then, come to St. Therese! At St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, adults of all ages can explore their faith, discern their vocation in life, foster their prayer life and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit on line at www.sttherese.ca

Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY offers distance education courses for adults seeking faith formation for personal and professional development: ***Diploma in Ministry; Certificate in Lay Ministry; Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations; Certificate in Spirituality; and Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies.***

For an information package please contact Continuing & Distance Education, St. Francis Xavier University, toll free 1-877-867-5562, diplomainministry@stfx.ca